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House Bill No. 2960*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 221, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 68-221-404.

- (a) As used in this section,
- (1) "Contained geosynthetic aggregate drainfield" means a prefabricated drainfield system for septic tank effluent, with such drainfield system:
 - (A) Consisting of contained geosynthetic aggregate, (used as a media substitute for gravel);
 - (B) Having a hydraulic conductivity equal to or greater than gravel per unit measure; and
 - (C) Containing no fine particles or other material that reduces hydraulic performance.
- (2) "Gravel standard" means the measure by which all other septic tank absorption system drainfields are compared, i.e., a conventional septic tank drainfield:
 - (A) Consisting of crushed stone or river rock with:

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- (i) Particle size ranging from three-fourths inch (3/4") to two inches (2"), and
- (ii) Not more than two percent (2%) fines or dust by weight;
- (B) Having void space of not less than thirty percent (30%) nor more than forty percent (40%), as measured by ASTM test methods;
- (C) Having a trench three (3) feet wide and one foot deep with an equivalency factor of three (3) square feet per linear foot of trench, or having a trench two (2) feet wide and one foot deep with an equivalency factor of two (2) square feet per linear foot of trench.
- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the preceding section or any other law to the contrary:
 - (1) The sizing of a contained geosynthetic aggregate drainfield shall be determined by comparing the equivalent soil interface area of the gravel standard to the soil interface area of the contained geosynthetic aggregate drainfield:
 - (2) The soil interface area for a contained geosynthetic aggregate drainfield shall be the sum of the

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- two (2) side walls plus the bottom area of the trench; and the measurement shall be taken as the mathematical equivalent of the system at full ponding;
- (3) The ratio of the gravel standard equivalency factor to a contained geosynthetic aggregate soil interface area shall determine the system equivalency factor;
- (4) The total trench length requirement for a contained geosynthetic aggregate drainfield shall be determined by first establishing the size of the standard gravel system and then multiplying the total trench length of the gravel standard by the system equivalency factor;
- (5) The maximum trench length reduction for a contained geosynthetic aggregate drainfield shall not exceed the reduction granted by the department for similarly situated products; and
- (6) Installation of a geosynthetic aggregate drainfield shall conform to the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations.
- (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the preceding section or any other law to the contrary, except for trench length reduction, the site, soil, repair area, documentation and other requirements imposed for a septic tank absorption system having

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a contained geosynthetic aggregate drainfield shall be the same as the site, soil, repair area, documentation and other requirements imposed for a septic tank absorption system having a standard gravel drainfield.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.